

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
-----070832Z 093875 /20

R 061536Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1561
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UK, UG, NI
SUBJECT: AMIN'S ATTENDANCE AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

REF: (A) LAGOS 6232, (B) LAGOS 6253 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS RADIO UGANDA ANNOUNCED JUNE 5 THAT PRESIDENT IDI AMIN WOULD NOT ATTEND THIS MONTH'S COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. "DAILY TIMES," REFERRING TO TWO-MAN NIGERIAN MISSION WHICH VISITED KAMPALA END OF LAST WEEK, ATTRIBUTES AMIN'S DECISION IN PART TO NIGERIAN INFLUENCE. ACCORDING TO PAPER, THE TWO-MAN DELEGATION HEADED BY BRIGADIER M. Y. WUSHISHI, MEMBER OF THE RULING SMC AND COMMANDER OF NIGERIA'S 4TH DIVISION, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AFRICA DEPARTMENT, AMBASSADOR AKADIRI, DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF STATE OBSANJO TO AMIN IN WHICH NIGERIAN LEADER URGED UGANDAN PRESIDENT NOT TO TRAVEL TO LONDON. THE DELEGATION RETURNED TO NIGERIA YESTERDAY.

2. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION SOURCES CONFIRM KAMPALA ANNOUNCEMENT
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BUT ADD THAT RESIDUAL BRITISH MISSION IN UGANDA CHARACTERIZED AMIN'S STATEMENT AS AMBIGUOUS. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE SUSPECTS THAT OBASANJO DID SUGGEST TO AMIN THAT HE NOT ATTEND THE COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT AND THAT THE NIGERIAN LEADER PROBABLY BASED HIS APPEAL ON THE NEED TO AVOID A SPLIT WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. HIGH COMMISSION SAYS HMG HAS BEEN CAUGHT COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE SINCE THE NIGERIANS GAVE

NO INDICATION DURING LORD THOMPSON'S VISIT LAST MONTH THAT THEY INTENDED TO MAKE AN INTERVENTION WITH AMIN (LAGOS 5756). HIGH COMMISSION IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION FROM FMG THAT AMIN'S ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE WAS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF OBASANJO LETTER.

3. OVER THE WEEKEND, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA, TRAVELLING IN JOS WITH VISITING SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER, SEEMED TO GIVE BACK-HANDED SUPPORT TO BRITISH REGARDING AMIN'S ATTENDANCE. GARBA TOLD REPORTERS THAT WHILE THE FMG DOES "NOT SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN REFUSING AMIN'S PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE... A HOST COUNTRY OF SUCH A MEETING MAY ADVISE CERTAIN COUNTRIES NOT TO ATTEND." HE SAID THE GROUNDS UPON WHICH SUCH ADVICE IS BASED "VARIES." THE COMMISSIONER ALSO CONFIRMED THAT NIGERIA WOULD PERMIT THE UGANDANS TO OPEN A HIGH COMMISSION IN LAGOS. (LAGOS 6232).
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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